

DETAILED ACTION

1. Newly amended claims 1, 3-9, 11-13 and 15-22 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

2. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

- Group 1, original claim(s) 1, 3-9 and 11-13, drawn to an adhesion promoting agent or a water insoluble polymer composition.
- Group 2, presently amended claim(s) 1, 3-9, 11-13 and newly added claims 15-20, drawn to an article of construction.
- Group 3, newly added claim(s) 20-22, drawn to a method of preparing an article of construction.

The inventions listed as Groups 1-3 do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the technical feature which is common to both groups, namely the adhesion promoting agent does not define a contribution over the prior art as evidenced by Larsen et al (GB 822,276), Bradley et al (US 4,473,406) and/or Aoki et al (US 4,367,300). Therefore the cited technical feature does not constitute a special technical feature and hence there is lack of unity between the cited groups.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, all the currently pending claims 1, 3-9, 11-13 and 15-22 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doris L. Lee whose telephone number is (571)270-3872. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30 am to 5 pm and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571)272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1796

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Doris L Lee/
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796